

AGN. NO.

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS

AUGUST 13, 2013

Proclaim National Health Centers Week from August 11 - 17, 2013

Community health centers are at the core of Los Angeles County's health care system and the nation's safety net. Across the nation, 1,200 health centers deliver high-quality, cost effective and accessible primary and preventative patient-focused health care to more than 22 million patients, regardless of their ability to pay, in over 9,000 locations. The centers typically are located in medically underserved areas and are locally-controlled by patient-majority boards. As such, each health center is responsive to the needs of the individual community it serves. These health centers play a crucial role during tough economic times, providing affordable health services for millions of uninsured and newly jobless individuals.

Community health centers provide a unique and comprehensive approach to health care that saves money for both patients and providers. For example, every time an uninsured patient opts for an exam and treatment at the first sign of a health issue instead of waiting until a costly emergency room visit, the savings are substantial. Health centers

- MORE -

MOTION

MOLINA _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS
AUGUST 13, 2013
PAGE 2

also save money for those looking for work whose families could otherwise face poor health without care, or incur large medical debt.

Also, because each health center emphasizes comprehensive preventive care while taking a unique approach to meeting the needs of local residents, collectively they generate \$24 billion in annual savings to the health care system as well as to taxpayers and private payers alike.

Community health centers in Los Angeles County (County), such as those which are members of the Southside Coalition of Community Health Centers and Community Clinic Association of Los Angeles County, share a common mission to advocate for health interests and expand access to quality and comprehensive health care for medically underserved people in the County. These health centers provide primary health care, including medical, dental and mental health services to the uninsured, underinsured, working poor, high-risk and vulnerable populations, serving all regardless of the ability to pay. The community health centers throughout the County should be applauded for their ability to provide high-quality care to an often complex patient population.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

Proclaim the week of August 11 - 17, 2013 as National Health Centers Week in Los Angeles County by joining communities throughout the nation in recognizing the community health centers that serve the primary health care needs of the residents of Los Angeles County.

#